A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits Donations Accepted Edition No. 452 **Thursday, May 19, 2022**

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Online & Print

Willits

Willits school superintendent to leave

EST. 2013

Joanne Moore Reporter joanne@willitsweekly.com

Willits Unified's May Board of Trustee's meeting was notable for some farewells to Superintendent Joe Aldridge after his first and last year on the job, final commemorative а farewell to Paul Ubelhart many years for of administrative service, information on reading at the elementary level, and some updates on facilities and staffing needs.

Superintendent Aldridge announced his decision to resign at the end of this school year "with a heavy heart ... due to some deeply personal reasons" in a May 3 letter to the Willits Unified School District staff and the community that was posted on the WUSD Facebook page.

Representatives from both district employees' unions recognized Aldridge's departure with words of appreciation at the meeting.

Willits High School Willits teacher and Association Teachers representative Brian Bowles wished Aldridge a "sincere goodbye.... I think you did a fantastic job."

California School Employees' union President

Read the rest of Schools



color

business contact

vears

today

Above, from left: The new reclining seats at the Noyo Theatre go so far back, you can choose to watch the movie, or take a nap. The Dutch door into the beer room makes a perfect opening to sell refreshments to customers – 21 and over! The official Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control license hangs next to the beer room. Below: Cheers! Noyo customers can now enjoy beer or wine in a luxury recliner while enjoying the show in the new "21 and Over Club" theater.



At right: Alcoholic offerings are shown on the specials board. Below: Two handicapped-accessible seats are also available in the new remodel. Below, left: The cooler is stocked with beer and wine. Below, right: The 32-seat theater offers spacious, luxurious seating for those 21 and over!





In the thread of "treat yo self" logic, Noyo Theatre has upped the ante for enjoyment at the cinema – that is, if you're over the legal drinking age! Maureen Jennison Graphics & Photographress maureen@willitsweekly.com Noyo transformed The its westernmost screening room into a special "21 and Over Club" which will offer patrons the chance

Luxury and

BOS considers sales tax **ballot** measure

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Forrest Glyer Features Writer willitsweekly@gmail.com

In an effort to deal with the increasing problems of destructive fires, strained emergency services, and water shortages in Mendocino County, the board of supervisors is now considering putting a sales tax measure on the November ballot to potentially direct funding towards those issues.

While it is still a work in progress, the board directed staff at their meeting

Read more of Sales Tax Over on Page 6

> 5-year traffic study shows 200 collisions in Willits

B.B. Kamoroff Reporter bb@willitsweekly.com

Grant money from a Caltrans Highway Safety Improvement Program has drawn the City of Willits into a contract with transportation planning TJKM, consultants а Pleasanton-based firm, to produce a Local Road Safety Plan, required to be eligible for the grant money. TJKM project managers Divya Gandhi and Ruta Jariwala spoke to the council via Zoom.

Over on Page 6

BOS urged not to close the museum

Forrest Glyer Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com

During the initial "Public Expression" portion of Tuesday's board of supervisors meeting, community members spoke out against the idea suggested by some on the board and county staff to close the county museum in Willits to the public, at least for a year, in order to help offset a looming deficit for the 2022/23 county budget.

Speaker Dusty Whitney was born and raised in Willits, and said that in 2018 he had "donated a lifetime collection of more than 1,600 historical Mendocino artifacts to our museum," which "was given with understanding that the the artifacts would be on a rotating display to the viewing public."

Whitney spoke about the important role he believes the museum plays in preserving and displaying local history. "I believe that a vote to defund the museum would negate the legacy of our forefathers," he said.

"Not to mention all past,

Read the rest of Museum Over on Page 6



to enjoy a can of beer or glass of wine while seated in the lap of luxury in the new plush electric-reclining seats.

Read the rest of

Novo

Over on page 11



Questions for the candidates

MENDOCINO COUNTY THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Here are eight questions from Willits Weekly's county reporter Forrest Glyer that were sent to both candidates for Third District supervisor in 2022, incumbent John Haschak (https://haschak.us/) and challenger Clay Romero (https:// clayformendocino.org/). The upcoming election is Tuesday, June 7, and with only two candidates for Third District



supervisor, the candidate who wins at least 50% plus 1 vote in the June election will win the seat.

Why do you think that you would be the best candidate to be selected as the Third District supervisor in Mendocino County?

John Haschak: When I ran for supervisor four years ago, the key issues were transparency in government, safe communities, and supporting economic development. I have worked each and every day on these issues. I lived up to my promise that I would not take the raise given to the supervisors by themselves since the regular workers were not also getting a raise. Instead, I set up a scholarship fund with that money and

Read the rest of Candidates

Over on page 13



Read the rest of Traffic Over on Page 6

Sheriff's Roundup

By Sgt. James Wells for MCSO

Willits woman arrested for assault

On May 6, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office received a call about a possible assault which occurred in the 32000 block of Shimmins Ridge Road in Willits.

Deputies learned that at approximately 5:05 pm, a 33-year-old adult female Garberville from was parked in a vehicle in the 32000 block of Shimmins Ridge, when Tesla Hencz, 27, from Laytonville, drove past. Deputies believed the adult female and Hencz had been arguing because they were both romantically dating the same person.

Hencz turned her vehicle around and rammed into

Read the rest of Roundup Over on Page 13

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Articles are slanted

To the Editor:

Recent articles in the Willits Weekly by Bear Kamoroff are more than a little slanted against a group of local citizens who volunteer their time and energy to reduce the number of youth addicted to nicotine. How dare outsiders from Laurel Street, Brooktrails and (clutches pearls) Ukiah propose an ordinance that will keep dangerous products out of the hands of kids?

The City of Willits' current tobacco retail license ordinance is 20 years old and was adopted before vaping was invented. It sets up a system of licensing tobacco merchants and To the Editor conducting buying surveys to ensure they are not selling to underage buyers. That is well and good, but the existing ordinance says nothing about products that are now on the market, targeted at kids with appealing colors (lime! orange! turquoise!) and flavors (fruit punch! candy cane!).

Today's youth are vaping in large numbers, and the quantity of nicotine contained in a "puff bar" or a "Flum Float" can be the equivalent of two to four packs of cigarettes. The addiction is quick. Local educators have observed some students who cannot make it through an hour-long class without going to the restroom for a hit. The size and shape of vaping devices make them easy to hide.

Big Tobacco will do whatever it needs to do to addict a new generation of tobacco users. It must. Nobody takes up vaping (or smoking) in their 40s or 50s. They must hook teenagers on their products so that they have customers for the future.

Most of us over 50 can remember the days when many more people smoked: They smoked in restaurants, on planes, in offices and other workplaces. A large-scale, prolonged education campaign and public policy measures have done so much to clear the air and reduce lung cancer. We are now headed in the wrong direction, but we can turn around if we choose. Willits residents have the opportunity to say, "not here." Will they?

Karen Oslund, Willits

Open letter to the supervisors To the Editor:

It is imperative that you do not close our museum in Willits. about the history of Mendocino County.

The historical exhibits are varied: Local business in the past; our local Native American tribes, especially the Pomo Indians; what life was like in the 1800s: and the people and events who shaped this county.

The display about the men and women who served in the armed forces, and gave their lives, is very important to members of our town.

It is essential for our community, especially the young A bit of history. From 1989 until 1995 I was PG&E's senior people, to be connected with our community and the history of the hard work, inventiveness, and commitment to make this a great place to live. The exhibit featuring Judi Bari is deeply saddening, and very important to witness: to see how she was treated for her beliefs, and to see the wreck of her bombed car.

There has been too much time, effort, and love put into our museum to just close the doors to the public. There are so you will find nowhere else. They are closely connected with the museum.

We implore you to find your budget cuts elsewhere. Do not take away this community resource from us!

Ann and Jon Maglinte, Linda Kostanecki, Charla Page, Fran Koliner, Elizabeth Simpson, Barbara Sullivan, Judi Berdis, Lani Nagy, Barbara Willens, Miranda Musgrave, Emmelia Caughron, and Georgine Hultz; all of Willits

Support for Nicole Glentzer

I am a third-generation Mendocino County resident and have had the honor and privilege to serve as an educator for the last 30 years. In that time, I've worked with many dedicated and passionate educators. Nicole Glentzer is at the top of my list!

I've worked alongside Nicole for the past 11 years when she served as superintendent for Potter Valley and now provides leadership at Ukiah Unified. Her work ethic, moral compass, and love for kids, staff, and families is an inspiration!

Nicole is the definition of a "service leader." One can often find her substituting in the classroom, serving as crossing guard, helping with food distribution, or providing supervision on our campuses. Nicole leads by example, but she also leads with vision. During the pandemic she was INSTRUMENTAL in advocating to get our kids safely back to school in person.

We live in a divided world. Now, more than ever, Mendocino County schools need a leader who is capable of bringing us together to help solve tough issues. Nicole Glentzer is that leader. She has a proven track record of working collaboratively through the most difficult problems.

Nicole has been a statewide leader in the area of Human Resources and I can think of no one better suited to represent the children of Mendocino County. Her ability to develop strong relationships with those she serves and make decisions to benefit our children will help our Mendocino County students!

I'm proud to join the superintendents of Fort Bragg, Mendocino, and Laytonville; educators and administrators It is an incredible resource for county residents to learn from across the county; and the employees of Ukiah Teachers Association, Potter Valley Education Support Professionals, Mendocino County CSEA, and Mendocino County Federation of School Employees to endorse Nicole for Mendocino County Superintendent of Schools.

Deb Kubin, Willits

Stress from PG&E contractors To the Editor:

energy specialist for the Redwood Region, working on the Energy Partners Program helping customers save energy and lower their electric bills.

That program was killed in 1995 with the removal of \$100,000,000 to be used for tree cutting. So 27 years ago, PG&E destroyed a worthwhile program to embark on a disastrous era of butchering forests for the purpose of CYA. In my own instance they have come onto my property while

we were gone and stripped one whole side of a redwood

tree which had been previously marked "do not cut" by a

PG&E management representative. They then left dead

limbs lying in my driveway for over a month during fire

Since then we have logged numerous times where

PG&E contractors trespassed our property without notice

marking trees to be destroyed, trying to use a pine tree on

our property to anchor a tree being cut on our neighbor's

property, and causing significant damage to our driveway.

I have visited the PG&E yard three times to complain

and demand that no PG&E contractors trespass on our

property. I was assured that no more contractors would

Two days ago I looked out my front window to see a man

in a yellow vest staring up at our trees. I asked him what

he was doing, and he informed me that he was from Atlas

looking at trees to be cut. First time I had heard of that outfit

beyond the eight others that have appeared from time to

I told him PG&E contractors were not allowed on my

Letters

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Over on page 6

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NAME:

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appear at our home.

Read the rest of

Abortion Rights

Collective meeting

Join us for the first meeting of the Mendocino County Community Organizing for Abortion Rights Collective. Saturday, May 21 at 7 pm, in the Willits area. RVSP by email for more info: sovereignwombcollective@ riseup.net.

We're forming a collective for abortion advocacy and a doula project, that can serve folks locally and afar. Plus Outdoor Movie Night - we're showing "Ask for Jane," a true story about the Jane Collective, a Chicago clandestine abortion service from 1968-1973.

Donations are welcome. Space is limited. There will be hot tea, zines and herbs for reproductive freedom available.

Editor's Note: Willits Weekly is withholding the submitter's name, but has verified they live in the Willits area.

Senior Center

menu for the week

Willits Senior Center is serving lunch in its indoor dining room, and continues to serve drive-through and walk-up lunches, too. Lunch is available Monday through Friday, from 12 to 12:45 pm, inside and outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, Price is \$7.

Thursday, May 19: BBQ Chicken, Beans, Veggie, Cornbread, Green Salad

Friday. May 20: Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Veggie,

Monday, May 23: Cheeseburger, Chips, Pickle

Tuesday, May 24: Beef Stroganoff, Roll, Green Salad Wednesday, May 25: Crispy Chicken Sandwich, Mac Salad

Thursday, May 26: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Friday, May 27: Turkey w/Gravy, Stuffing, Veggie, Cranberry Sauce, Roll

Meals on Wheels: The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program delivers lunch Monday through Friday. To sign up call Deb at 459-6826, who can help fill out the application form. Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery. Delivered throughout Willits.

Transportation for seniors: Call 459-5556 to schedule. Pick up and drop off for grocery shopping, banking, doctors' appointments. Senior Center Thrift Shop: 459-2176

The Senior Center is in need of volunteers to help with the many activities here at the center, including volunteer Meals on Wheels drivers. "Volunteers are one-third of our workforce, which allows us to offer many services to our members and community." To learn more about volunteering: 459-6826

94th annual Firefighters **Association Fundraiser**



Above, from left: Tina Tedeschi of the Mendocino County Herb Guild spreads the word about the work her organization is doing to educate people about the medicinal benefits of herbs. Jerry Albright came down all the way from his home near Emandal to find some vegetable starts. Donna d'Terra of Motherland Botanical Sanctuary holds up one of her herb plants. Morgan Rex sells some of his finely crafted metal works and fountains. Below, left: Shoppers peruse the vast selection of plants available at the Grateful Gleaners' annual sale. Below, right: Tidbits of gardening philosophy are displayed at the Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale on Sunday.



Growing Success

Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale flourishes as Mendocino County Herb Guild, Golden Rule Gardens, and Art in the Plaza join in the fun

With so many local residents growing their own Montez, offered much knowledge about the beneficial vegetables, the annual Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale is a properties of the plants.

natural attraction for those wishing to find plant starts for their gardens of any size. A spring Mathew Caine institution for several years, the eatures Writer Gleaners sale has provided seeds nathew@willitsweekly.com and starts, information, and a

community event for like-minded gardeners. This year's Tuttle Lane.

"We are a very valuable organization at this time," said one of the longtime members, Wolfgang Ronnefeldt. "We do this plant sale once a year and so many people contribute. Last year, Karen [Gridley] did about 400 plants, which was just too much. She brought around 70 this year and it's still a wonderful array. The money partially goes to the Gleaners. We need ladders and tools and insurance and so Fortunate Farm, coastherbguild@gmail.com on. Thankfully, Madge Strong lets us use her garage.

"We make maybe \$1,500 on the sale," said Ronnefeldt. "A lot of it gets donated to young farmers, agriculturists who just need things, like a washing station, or maybe they need a greenhouse. Every year, the money gets donated to a of vegetables and fruits are purchased for \$30 a week. couple of farmers and it's just a win-win situation." At the sale was Morgan Rex, a well-known local metal sculptor and owner of Gallery in the Plaza, who brought an array of garden art for those who find that creating a garden is more than just planting and growing food. Herbs were being sold along with a trove of knowledge of the medicinal properties of these natural healing and preventative plants. The Mendocino County Herb Guild, represented by Tina Tedeschi, and the Elderbroads, represented by Donna D'Terra, Leslie King, and Lisa

LUNCH

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SPECIAL

Restaurant El Mexicano

In addition to the sale, tours were led by herb-expert Beth Riedel. The tours consisted of walks around the neighborhood beginning at the Gleaners sale and were an opportunity to learn about common plants growing in Willits. The excursions were the first in a series of local garden tours. Subsequent tours will include Motherland sale occurred on Sunday, May 15 at its usual location on Botanical Sanctuary on June 11, Green Uprising Farm on July 16, Ridgewood Ranch and Golden Rule Gardens on August 13, and Fortunate Farm in Caspar on August 13. Space is limited, so reservations are recommended and can be made by contacting each host. Contact Donna d'Terra for Motherland tour at 459-5030; Sara Grusky for Green Uprising Farm, 707-216-5549; Eric Buteyn for Ridgewood and Golden Rule, ericbuteyn@gmail.com; and Karin for

> Also being sold on Sunday were flowers from the Golden Rule Gardens, offered by Keith Michalak who was additionally signing people up for their CSA, a program in

Above: Carlin and Jed Diamond are in the process of picking out various starts and flowers. Below: Jamie Chevalier provides a selection of her Quail Seeds at the Grateful Gleaners Plant Sale.



Roads - Water, Soil & Rock Delivery

BLOOM

where

you are planted



many volunteers who are committed to the museum and enthusiastically share their knowledge of the museum's contents, as we saw on a recent tour of the museum's collections. These people, like Dusty Whitney, are a treasure, with their firsthand knowledge of past events and the objects in the museum that bring this history to life.

Roots of Motive Power is a very important entity in Willits, and helps put Willits on the map. They offer expertise and

The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters focusing on Willits and Third District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters from residents of Willits and the Third District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once every four weeks.

Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.



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□ 1 year - \$75 □ Additional donation included \$

Home delivery: 1 year - \$50 (Home Delivery only available in Willits, Brooktrails & local areas)

and Open House

The Little Lake Firefighters Association's 94th annual Fundraiser and Open House is set for Saturday, June 11, from 12 to 5 pm at the Little Lake Fire Protection District Station 54 on East Commercial Street.

The Little Lake Firefighters Association is a nonprofit organization made up of 40+ volunteers who respond to our community's fires, rescues, and other emergencies, 24 hours/day, 365 days/year.

The money raised from this once-a-year fundraiser will be used to purchase specialized equipment, to provide the most current training and education to your volunteer firefighters, and to fund other vital activities of the association.

Raffle tickets were recently mailed out to Willits residents, complete with a return envelope.

With your donation of \$10 per ticket, you have a chance to win the following prizes. The winning tickets

Read the rest of Over on page 4 Fundraiser

supportgood

e subscribers

which a weekly or biweekly series of personalized boxes This is a program being produced by a few of the farming entities in the area in order to offer a supply of fresh, organic vegetables for families, and to support local agriculture. For more information, contact Michalak: 248-249-2885, keithmichalak@gmail.com. "There is a flower bouquet in every box," said Michalak enticingly.

The Grateful Gleaners were created to continue an ancient

Read the rest of Growing





9 am - 5 pm

- Satur

Monday

Willits Weekly's **Puzzle Page**

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

				9	1		6	4	ноw то SUDOKU
2			5	4				7	Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid,
9	3								broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku,
4	2			1	6	8			the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column
1		8							and box. Each number can appear only once in each
	9	3		8	2	4	1		row, column and box. You can figure out the order
						1	4		in which the numbers will appear by using the
8	4	2			7	6		9	numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The
3		1			4				more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT **POLICE LOG**

May 8 to May 14

May 12 3:38 Officers am. responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Redwood Avenue. 9:18 am: Officers responded to a report of

suspicious activity in the

1700 block of South Main

papadial tipe Ora	Standard Sta
Name: - Address: - City: - Phone: -	Featuring a LARGE assortment of prizes including: BBQ Grill, Generator, and a 50/50 Raffle!!









Cornhole Tournament

A little corn dust, free pizza, prizes, and sunshine combine to create a successful fundraiser for Sober Grad

The competition was fast and furious. The corn-filled (thus the name) dusty bags were flying wildly through the air above the Rexall parking lot as the participants attempted to find the holes in the cornhole boards. That, or at least get their bags onto the platforms to either gain points or to erase the points of their opponents. The fierce Cornhole Tournament (and fierce laughter) was to raise funds for one of Willits' most

Mathew Caine venerable and pragmatic causes, Sober Grad, an organization that Features Writer has saved many young lives by providing a fun, safe party following mathew@willitsweekly.com their graduation ceremony.

"The actual Sober Grad party will be Thursday, June 9 at the Willits Community Center from 9 pm to 4 am," explained Carrie Lambert of the Sober Grad board of directors. "If you leave, you can't come back, and you need to stay that late to be eligible for the two \$1,000 grand prizes as well as some of the cash prizes.

"We have a ton of great prizes," said Lambert. "There are seven prize drawings throughout the night. Everyone who attends is guaranteed to receive a prize worth about \$50. All of the seniors in attendance have their name in a drawing for high-value prizes which are worth about \$150, and mega-prizes which are worth about \$200. There are

Above, from left: The team of Dominic and Kevin Kvasknicka made it through a couple rounds before being eliminated by Gabe Campbell and Bo Dale of Laytonville. Carrie Lambert of the Sober Grad board and recent graduate Callie Brown work the registration and scorer table. Andrew Hosford from the Sparetime team likes to balance his throws with a beverage. At left: As the games continue, they seem to become more serious and more fun at the same time.





At top: Willits Mayor Saprina Rodriguez takes her turn as opponent Heather Walker waits for her chance. Above: As the games proceed, the teams actually start to get the hang of it. Below, left: Some of the corn-filled bags actually made it onto the boards and some even found the hole. Below, right: Tournament winners Stephen Summers and Mickey Coughlin outlasted all the other teams



By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 82 incidents in this 7 day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

May 8

2:54 am: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 800 block of Coast Street.

11:47 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.

May 9

12:38 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1700 block of Elm Lane.

1:29 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

5:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of panhandling in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

10:53 pm: Officers initiated a missing person investigation in the 100 block of Creekside Court.

May 10

5:30 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Holly Street.

May 11

6:44 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

11:42 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street and issued a citation.

7:19 pm: GOFORTH, Brady Kevin (56) of Willits and SILVA, Shandra Lynn (18) of Lakeport were contacted in the 1200 block of Locust Street. They were both arrested on felony charges of grand theft and conspiracy to commit

crime, and on misdemeanor charges Shandra Silva of of appropriating lost property for Lakeport. personal use.

8:57 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 Barbara Lane. She was arrested block of Wood Street.

Street 10:21 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 900 block of South Main Street.

60

33

(abbr.)

56. Solid water

57. Soldier's gear

Hoffmann

of length

'spring'

62. Doctors' group

63. Actress Susan

CLUES DOWN

2. Hebrew unit of measure

3. Swedish rock group

6. One who stopped

8. Rhythmic patterns

9. 'MASH' actor Alda

12. Midway between

19. Fulfill a desire

south and southeast

14. Indian musical pattern

10. 'Friday Night Lights'

4. College army

5. Black eye

working

7. Teach a value

director

64. Appropriate

1. Cool!

60. Former measure

59. 'Uncle Buck' actress

61. Arabic name meaning

55. Insurance-related costs

23. Water soaked soil

24. Brass instrument

27. Peyton's little brother

28. Partner to cheese

34. 'Much __ about

35. A way to mend

37. Soviet Socialist

40. Resembles an earlobe

45. Square stone building

48. Marine bivalve mollusk

51. Retrospective analysis

Republic

39. Mobilized

41. Cut of meat

44. Recently

42. Nigerian people

at Mecca

46. Adhere to orders

47. Adventure story

(abbr.)

52. Actor Pitt

heating

53. Tibetan village

54. A way to change by

58. A beam of sunshine

nothing

26. Popular color

25. Before

29. Put onto

36. Anger

11:13 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Walnut Street and South Main Street.

12:02 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of Franklin Avenue.

2:24 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

2:29 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

May 13

12:21 am: SIMPSON, Gerald Crandall (52) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of Marcela Drive following a report of an unwanted subject. He was arrested pursuant to 602 (T) (1) PC (Trespassing) and on felony charges of violation of parole.

8:14 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious The rest of activity in the 100 block of Spruce Street. 2:42 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the

1100 block of South Main Street. 9:11 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance

in the 100 block of West Valley Street.

May 14

10 and the

-

8:46 am: SCHMITTFELIZ. Jennifer Michele (39) of Covelo was contacted near the intersection of Coast Brady Goforth of Willits. Street and West San Francisco Avenue. She was arrested on felony charges of possession of metal knuckles and violation of probation.

> 10:29 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

11:14 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 1400 block of South Main Street. 2:12 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

4:33 pm: MATTSON, Cheryl Kathleen (49) of Ukiah was contacted in the 100 block of

Cheryl Mattson of Ukiah. pursuant to 368 PC (Elder Abuse).





From page 2 Fundraiser

will be drawn at the end of the Open House, and you do not need to be present to win.

Prizes include a \$200 Gift Certificate by Commercial Tire & Auto; gift certificates from Serenity Salon, Dahvi's Kitchen, Brickhouse Coffee, Ashley Photography, and other prizes.

We will be holding three additional raffles: One for a generator, one for a BBQ grill, and one for a 50/50 raffle! Tickets purchased separately!

The members of Little Lake Firefighters Association would like to extend this invitation to all residents in our district to attend the association's Fundraiser and Open House. Bring the Kids!

Activities will include: fire apparatus on display; volunteer firefighters available for firehouse tours; antique fire truck rides; food and drinks will be available with a small donation; fire department T-shirts with our new logo available for purchase; and the fundraiser raffle drawings for prizes.

Thank you for your support of the Little Lake Firefighters Association.

and Harry So, secretary/treasurer

Submitted by Aaron Branscomb, president,

cash drawings for about \$100 which go all night until we run out of money. And there are the drawings for the \$1,000 cash prizes."

All of the prizes and money have either been generously donated by local businesses and individuals or raised through events and raffles. Last weekend's highly competitive Cornhole Tournament was sponsored by Flying Dog Wood Fired Pizza & Vinyl, Coldwell Banker, Sparetime Supply, Bull Clover Beef, and 101 Trailer & RV Supply, some of whom participated in the actual contest, sending teams of two to participate in chucking the bags at the boards. MetalFX sent Jevin Wolfe and Nicholas Harrington, who claimed proudly to be the best in the entire company.

When the corn dust had cleared, one team emerged triumphant, Stephen Summers and Mickey Coughlin, receiving much Read the rest of

praise and two sets of burger-making Tournament kits. Although, bragging rights were

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The rest of From page 1 Traffic

TJKM did a detailed analysis of traffic flow and traffic accidents in Willits over a five-year period, 2015-2019. There were 200 collisions resulting in a total of seven severe injuries. There were no fatalities. TJKM concluded that the biggest traffic problems were at two intersections. Main and Commercial. and Main and Sherwood Road. TJKM recommended more signage, more street striping, flashing crosswalk signals, and constructing roundabouts and traffic islands in the street. Deja vu all over again.

It's been said that a consultant is someone who borrows your watch to tell you what time it is. Council member Greta Kanne thanked TJKM for the presentation, but did not hesitate to say that she found it frustrating. "Anybody who lives in Willits for any amount of time could have probably told you, if you had just asked, which are the most problematic intersections, where we have the biggest issues with speeding, all those things people in the community have identified for years."

TJKM's project team did not respond to Kanne's comments but continued on: "Our next step is to put the application together and submit it to Caltrans. We're going to cross our fingers and hope we get some funds to get these things implemented." And if this grant application does not get approved, the consultants said they could look into "other opportunities" to fund these projects.

Which wasn't exactly what the council wanted to hear. Kanne concluded: "Yes, we've identified these again. And yes, we've made these suggestions for having these approved.

Schools From page 1 The rest of

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Dan Green agreed, saying: "I'd like to thank
Joe ... [for a] great year.
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And the board unanimously approved the placement of a plaque as a final recognition for Ubelhart, who passed away in March at the age of 90.

"He had a long career here at Willits Unified ... as a principal over at Baechtel Grove. [Sanhedrin, and Crazy Horse School]. And once he retired, he served on the board of Mendocino College," said trustee Paula Nunez. "Paul was dedicated to education."

As a theme, dedication to education is an apt descriptor of a good portion of the rest of the meeting.

dubbed it "one of the best meetings I've attended because we're talking about instruction."

Attaining proficiency in reading, for example, clearly motivated educators and administrators alike.

"We spent three hours ... at least half our meeting on Monday, discussing reading

again. So what are we going to do about it, that we aren't getting another report like this money. A vast irreplaceable collection in 10 years and getting the thing told back to of historic Mendocino County artifacts,

us - again?" New homes may – eventually – be on the horizon for the south end of Willits, adjacent to the Haehl Creek subdivision behind the hospital. At the May 11 city council meeting, the council voted unanimously to rezone two parcels from heavy commercial to singlefamily residential. returned to them, a costly process.

The parcels, owned by Willits developer Margie Handley, are large, 1 acre and 2 acres, but the new zoning will permit only one home plus a small in-law unit on each parcel. The zoning would also permit, instead of a

residence, a residential care home that can would like to express an opinion about the house up to six people. museum to contact the board of supervisors. Handley, born and raised in Willits but Email bos@co.mendocino.ca.us or visit www. now living in San Diego, told Willits Weekly mendocinocounty.org/government/board-ofsupervisors to find individual emails for each that she has no immediate plans to develop

the property, and she hoped the two parcels supervisor. could, in the future, possibly be subdivided City manager Bender succinctly summed into smaller lots. For now, Handley said she up a sad situation: "This is unnecessary and was happy to finally get this rezoning, that she unfair said has taken two years. "Right now it's just a This is the last report I will be writing for

big weed patch.' The Mendocino County Museum here in Willits is on the chopping block. City manager Brian Bender sounded the alarm at will take several months to complete. the May 11 council meeting, reporting that the county supervisors are considering shutting down the museum for a year, citing a need to cut county expenses to close a \$3 million looming deficit.

Fabian Lizarraga for being extraordinarily helpful and friendly. Thank you, Jennifer Several people knowledgeable about Poole, for offering me the job, it was fun. Later museum operations, including Third District Supervisor John Haschak, have pointed

Staffing needs, though, extend beyond Bowlds.

aides and PE teachers. "Across our district we have an absolute lull Chavez. of staff," said Bowles.

night custodian," he continued. "Some sites have just one custodian for the whole school. "For custodians who are there working, I want to give a shout out to professionalism

CSEA president Dan Green agreed that "pretty much every job classification is understaffed."

These and other unmet needs may have underlain a less than enthusiastic response superintendent.

coordination and support to initially get going," he explained to the board in support of the

out that closing the museum will save little The rest of Museum From page 1 documents and publications need to be

preserved and protected, requiring climate current and future Mendocino controls, security, and building maintenance. County residents including our Museum employees would still be employed, fallen war heroes, our men and transferred to other county departments. And women in the lumber industry, donors, who gave the county unique and our men and women in the fishing priceless heirlooms to display in the museum, industry, our Native American could possibly demand that their donations be friends, our Roots of Motive Power crew, our mom and pop businesses, our school teachers, Mayor Saprina Rodriguez requested that

our police and firefighters, our the council add an agenda item for the next doctors and nurses, our men council meeting, to send a letter to the county and women and children who protesting closing the museum. Council support and visit our museum, member Kanne encouraged anyone who and our hardworking county employees including administrator Karen Mattsen and her staff and volunteers.

"Chris Baldo, a founding member of Roots of Motive power has reminded me," Whitney continued, "that back in 1970, the Mendocino County historical society gifted our county its museum building along with the Willits Weekly. I just received a contract to historical artifacts it contained. research and write new editions of two of my These treasures are our voices of business guidebooks, a full-time project that the past, be it the tattered written texts of the 1600s, or a brokendown steam train from the 1850s. I want to thank city manager Brian Bender, Please don't let these treasures go city staff Dusty Duley, Scott Herman, Andrea Trincado, Davey Bowles and Cathy Moorhead, dark. I urge you to do everything in your power to keep this invaluable city attorney Jim Lance, and police chief county treasure open."

> Roots of Motive Power President Troy James talked about the important relationship that the county museum has had with the Roots activities over the years.

"Roots and the museum have always had a tight connection and an understanding with each other," said James. "And if the museum were to close it would dramatically affect Roots of Motive Power's ability to conduct their business. We would no longer have access to our research library which I know people don't see, but we use quite regularly for the maintenance, preservation and restoration of our pieces, of which some are also owned by the county museum.

"Our first project was a spool donkey that's owned currently and was [owned] then by the county,' he continued. That was the first restoration that Roots had done.... I know you're trying to save value, but history does have a value."

Albion resident Anne Marie Weibel talked about her personal experiences in visiting the Willits museum.

"When I first arrived in this



Life Without Sport

WHS sophomore Kooper Dockins talks about missing out on athletics during the pandemic

for what was meant to be his final year of Little League baseball action. He was finding his own, growing into a stand-out athlete in his hometown and eagerly awaiting journey, though, would have to wait.

federal, state, and local health authorities to enact restrictive policies meant to limit person-to-person interactions across the nation. These policies included the cancellation of many high school and youth sports seasons.

Countless professional athletes participated in abbreviated seasons while many of America's youth, high school, and collegiate athletic programs shut down altogether.

Along with the bulk of the nation, Kooper became restricted to the confines of his home, doing his part to suppress what we now know to be a devastating pandemic. What initially was a time of fervent optimism quickly turned to demoralizing isolation.

"I remember reading the email sent to every student and parent informing us that all school [functions] would be shut down until further notice," Kooper said. "At the beginning, we weren't guite sure what a 'total shutdown' really meant. No one expected a year and a half of life without sports."

For young athletes like Kooper – many who participate in multiple sports throughout the year - the pandemic forced a lifestyle change so drastic that many kids experienced Time to be a kid negative effects on their mental and physical health.

have positive outcomes is the best thing in the world," "I found it more difficult to do my school work without sports," said Dockins, who like many of his peers, uses said Michael Colvig, principal at Willits High School. "The sports as an incentive to get good grades. "I wasn't





At far left: Willits High School's 2022 varsitv baseball team at their final game of the year. At left: Kooper Dockins runs to first base after hitting a ground ball at a game against Potter Valley on March 21. Below: WHS student Kooper Dockins is happy to be back on the playing field after **COVID** restrictions prevented him from playing for nearly two years.



some of the most formative events in a student athlete's high school experience.'

It's now May of 2022 and Kooper is wrapping up his sophomore season of high school baseball. When asked if he and his peers have enjoyed being back in a competitive atmosphere, Kooper said with conviction, "Absolutely."

Willits has historically been an incredibly supportive community for our student-athletes. As we prepare to enter the 2022-2023 school year, it is imperative we continue to show our young athletes they have the support of our small town's people.

For more information on how you can support Willits High School athletes, reach out to the Willits High School Boosters Club on Facebook

Editor's Note: Reporter Cody Pedersen is a student at Willits High School, interested in sports reporting. Willits Weekly is pleased to be able to publish this story.

Adventist Health



under pressure," he added.

The new program will "provide more opportunities for students outside of the

"At this point, we need to table this," agreed That the superintendent's responsibilities do require a lot of time monitoring and reporting

"We have a [state-required] extended opportunity learning program ... coming on board that will require a good bit of time and

request.

Indeed, board President Robert Chavez to a request by Aldridge to hire an assistant

specialists," Bowles told the board. "Next year

"Many places have just one day and one on a multitude of data and programs was

clearly demonstrated by Aldridge's description of a recently completed "federal program monitoring" task.

He reported how he and Director of Fiscal Services Nikki Agenbroad "linked 300 and some odd documents ... each researched,

> and supplied in the right way. "We uploaded hours and hours of work ... to

assure compliance with the federal mandates for programs for English learners and program

enrichment " Such is the bane of receiving and spending the public's money, a task also recently reported on when it comes to the district's

until the next bond draw in 2024."

The rest of

Letters

expenditures of its first round of the sale of \$17 million worth of bonds authorized by the passage of Measure I in November 2020. By the terms of the measure, an oversight

committee has to meet regularly to examine

By Cody Pedersen, WHS depressed or more anxious. I just missed competing and it felt like I may never get the opportunity to do what I love In March of 2020, Kooper Dockins was preparing again

the start of his Willits High School athletic journey. This pandemic.

The rapid spread and transmission of COVID-19 forced

health in young athletes.

Research has been conducted to determine how this lack of playtime has affected young athletes during the

In late March of 2021, a study published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health found that pandemic-induced isolation was a major contributor to deteriorating mental and physical

The study argues that kids who were lucky enough to continue their athletic ventures during the brunt of COVID "described fewer symptoms of anxiety and depression and had better physical activity and guality-of-life scores compared with adolescent athletes who did not play a

sport."

Fast-forward to the 2021-2022 school year, optimism returned. Willits Unified School District held in-person instruction for the first time since the spring of 2020. This meant that after more than a year and a half of painful confinement, Willits athletics were back.

Kooper now participates in three competitive sports offered at Willits High: football, basketball and baseball.

"Sports are my outlet. I forget about all my problems while I'm suited up, playing with my friends," he said. "Most of us see sports as our time to just have fun."

"To see students engaging in [athletic] activities that

we're slated to have six coaches.

"We need to increase our aide positions." he continued. "They allow the teacher ... to actually create small groups in the classroom."

"It's critical to teach reading in small groups," agreed Brookside second-grade teacher Sandy Lucier. "My dream is to increase aide time.

"Another thing that we think will really help to improve reading scores is to hire two PE teachers ... at Blosser and Brookside. That's paramount," continued Bowles. "We have a problem with our aides being used for yard duty. We need to fill yard duty positions."

Aldridge responded, telling the board that the district was "looking at adding additional bilingual aides and a PE teacher, in addition to the position we already have available. So ... we would have a credentialed PE teacher at each of Brookside and Blosser.'

More of Sales Tax

Tuesday to begin crafting the ordinance which would districts and water projects.

From page 1

"For some time we've been identifying fire and [Emergency Medical Services] – specifically volunteer fire - as severely underfunded and not sustainable," said board Chair Ted Williams. "And it's a critical need countywide. And I know [First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty] in open session has raised the idea of using sales tax for mitigating some of our drought situation, and those conditions exist throughout the county as well. And so what I would like to start with is a proposal that we look at the available revenue and split it between fire and water," he said.

"On fire ... I think our best move is to ask our local fire agencies, what do they think is fair and then support them," he continued. "That one's easy. On water, I think we need to find a fair way to divide any revenue because ... every corner of the county has drought concerns, and we don't want to raise funds that get spent in one corner of the county. And frankly that would make it hard to convince the people to pass it with a 2/3 vote as necessary."

The sales tax for the Measure B Mental Health

learning that's happening during the day," he continued. "The goal will be that students will have up to a nine-hour day, [transitional kindergarten] through sixth grade.

Pointing out again how "the lack of support staff affects the education of our students. Bowles cautioned the board "strongly about the precedent you set in creating this position, [reminding them] that you're trying to be

fiscally responsible. "We don't have custodians. We don't have

paraprofessionals.... We have a problem with yard duty positions. Aides are being used," he explained. "It's a little bit cart before the horse." Aldridge responded that the "position won't

necessarily be at an office every day. [It] will be out at sites.' The board was not convinced.

million), 2026 (\$3 million), 2028 (\$3 million), "I would table this, [and] put it in the hands of the next superintendent," said trustee Alex and 2031 (\$4 million).

Treatment Act passed in 2017 by county voters is set to take advantage of a tax rate drop-off about to set in be reduced from .5% (1/2 cent per dollar) to .125% (1/8 for Measure B, and put that money towards local fire cent) later this year. And according to County Interim CEO Darcie Antle, this means that about \$7 million of annual sales tax which has been going towards not. Measure B projects would be freed up.

While the vote by the supervisors for the county to begin work on the tax ordinance was unanimous, two of them seemed to have reservations about whether they would eventually vote to put the measure on the ballot. Third District Supervisor John Haschak said he had some doubts about whether county voters would down Pine Mountain. support a sales tax ordinance put forth by the board.

"Certainly we have a lot of needs in Mendocino County in fire and water, and we could probably add housing and several other things to that list that are critical," he said. "I'm just worried that at this point Measure B, which we all know that it's had successes lately... but I don't think that word is out there with the people yet. And I think that people are still kind of sour on what happened with Measure B taking so long. "The economy's in a real kind of precarious situation

Read the rest of Over on page 15

Sales Tax

expenditures and make sure funds are being county and visited the county spent "appropriately against the projects museum in 1978, I was blown identified in the bond measure." away by this amazing museum," This year's oversight committee's annual she said. "I was raised going to

report, supplied to the board at the meeting, a museum where I saw history cited a recent audit which verified appropriate of people from hundreds and spending and also noted that "the dollars hundreds of years ago, and to remaining in the Measure I fund are diminishing come to a museum where actual after an active summer of 2021, and careful life history was also displayed was review and management of the fund is taking mind-blowing.

place for the remaining significant projects "The savings, the little that you would be making would not pay Of that balance remaining after the first for the loss of this community," she draw, Bowlds noted that the "rest of the added. "It is important to keep this proceeds are for the Blosser [fire] alarm." museum open, and I encourage you to do that because if we have Specific draw amounts were reported as no history we also have no future, follows; "A bond issue was completed in and it is important that we keep January 2021 for \$4 million, [and] additional this history alive." bond issues are scheduled for 2024 (\$3

> An estimate stated by Haschak at a previous board meeting was that while the cost of the museum is around \$550,000 annually, the savings in closing the museum would only be around \$150,000 per year due to the ongoing maintenance and preservation

his bosses - of course he had The Friends of the Mendocino County Museum and the Willits So the beat goes on, and we Chamber of Commerce are are forced to deal with the noise sponsoring an "open house" of dueling chainsaws, chipper event this Friday at the museum shredders, and air pollution to support keeping the museum and noise pollution of up to 30 open. The event begins at 6 pm at vehicles a day driving up and 400 East Commercial Street.

Then there are the scores of white pickups with one person per pickup lining driveways and filling yards. Add to that the many roadblocks that line the roads on the hills and in the valley, and you will understand the stress upon my 86-year-old body and mind that causes me to submit this letter as a means of release. Thanks for the opportunity. John Henson, Willits

From page 2 property and asked him if he had not been advised of that by work that would still be necessary.



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Above: "Grizzly bear fishing," courtesy of C. Hart Merriam Pictorial Collection at The Bancroft Library.

> 'Bear in Mind: The Story of the California Grizzly' opens at Mendocino County museum

Submitted by Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency

Over the centuries, the relationship that Californians have had with the grizzly bear is one of dualities expressed in fear and fascination. Although now extinct in the state, the grizzly has long been a central character in California's history. Illuminating the story of the grizzly is the exhibition "Bear in Mind: The Story of the California Grizzly," which opens at the Mendocino County Museum on Saturday, June 4.

The California grizzly possessed characteristics that we hold dear: independence, adaptability, resourcefulness, intelligence, and strong maternal care. Yet human interaction with the bears was misguided, intolerant and violent.

Scientists estimate that 10,000 grizzlies once lived in California, perhaps the densest population of brown bears on the continent. However, through increased human settlement, loss of habitat, and hunting, by the early 1900s the California grizzly had vanished and could only be seen on the state flag. Although the loss of the California grizzly was a tragic lesson, we are not too late to save other threatened and endangered species.

Today, California grizzly bears only exist in our imaginations as symbols of things desired and things lost. Since the mid-1800s, the grizzly has been used as an icon, advertiser and entertainer, making the image of the bear a familiar one to most people.

Little physical evidence remains of the grizzly bears that once roamed California. It is through stories, artifacts, striking images, and the hands-on activities that the "Bear in Mind" exhibition provides, that we can take an in-depth look at the history and science of California's most revered and feared animals.

The "Bear in Mind: The Story of the California Grizzly" exhibition is based on the Heyday Books publication, "Bear in Mind: The California Grizzly" by Susan Snyder, as well as The Bancroft Library exhibition of the same name.

Currently scheduled for installation at more than 17 museums across the state over the next three years, "Bear in Mind" will continue at the Mendocino County Museum through Sunday, July 31, 2022.

The "Bear in Mind: The Story of the California Grizzly" exhibition is produced and toured by Exhibit Envoy. The exhibition was developed in concert with The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, and Heyday Books. Exhibit Envoy collaborates with California institutions to create and tour smaller, affordable, high-quality exhibitions that enhance civic engagement and human understanding. This exhibition was supported by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation with additional funds from the Bank of the West.

The Mendocino County Museum is located at 400 East Commercial Street in Willits. Open hours are 10 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday, and 12 to 4 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$4 adults; 1 for students 7-18; and free for children 6 and under. Family admission (2 adults and children) is \$7. Free admission on the first Saturday of the month, or with a Mendocino County Library card.

Learn more about Mendocino County Museum and view our full program calendar at www.mendocinocounty.org/museum. For more information, please contact the Mendocino County Museum at 707-459-2736 or museum@mendocinocounty.org.







At top: Little Lake NAPA Auto Parts has an interesting array of classic cars in 2021. Above: Mike Brown's 1954 Ford F1 pickup with a 428 CID blown engine won "Best of Show" in 2019. Below, left:

Stephen Marley returns to the Mateel Community Center on his Babylon By Bus Summer Tour 2022

options.

Submitted by Mateel Community Center

Indigo Children Project presents Stephen Marley with special guest Skip Marley on Thursday, June 2, 2022 at the Mateel Community Center in Redway. This will be his second stop on the Babylon By Bus Summer Tour and will feature a special outdoor setting, sponsored by March and Ash.

Stephen Marley is an award-winning singer, songwriter and producer. From his solo works to family collaborations and production credits, Stephen Marley's music has earned him eight Grammy Awards. He is the second eldest son of reggae legend Bob Marley and Rita Marley, raised in Kingston, Jamaica. With a prolific work ethic in his Lion Den Studios, Stephen just released an EP collection of songs he produced with female vocalists as an homage to legend Nina Simone, titled "Celebrating Nina: A Reggae Tribute to Nina Simone," and is currently putting the finishing touches on his own new album projects, with the first solo LP slated to release in fall of 2022. For more information, visit www.stephenmarleymusic. com

This show is a re-scheduled date originally announced for August 26, 2021. All tickets puchased for the August date will

The event will feature craft and food vendors, including authentic Jamaican food from Los Angeles-based restaurant Stones Jamaican Roots and Juice as well as Irae Divine's food truck, serving Philly cheesesteaks as well as vegetarian

be honored for the rescheduled date on June 2.

Southern California-based March and Ash is the sponsor for the special event, featuring an outdoor stage at the Mateel. March and Ash, a customer-focused, licensed cannabis dispensary with six locations, is honored to join Stephen Marley and his band at the Mateel Center - a community epicenter of Northern California cannabis and Reggae roots and culture.

Tickets are on sale now through Brown Paper Tickets for \$45 in advance, \$55 the day of the show. Doors open at 6 pm, the event is all ages. The Mateel Community Center is located at 59 Rusk Lane in Redway. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit https://stephenmarleymateel.

brownpapertickets.com. For more information about the show, visit www.mateel.org or call 707-923-3368.

> t left: Food thered from the 2022 Stamp Out Hunge drive sits in bins on the the Willits FOOD DRIVE

> > UNITED STATES

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Stamping Out Hunger

Local USPS food drive yields 1,487.5 pounds of non-perishable food for Willits Food Bank

> On the second Saturday in May, the United States Post Office holds an annual food drive with carriers picking up donations left at mailboxes and donating the goods to local food banks. This year's drive in Willits allowed 1,487.5 pounds of food to be donated to Willits Community Services and Food Bank.

> "After not being able to do the drive last year at all due to COVID, it was nice to be able to receive the donations again this year," said Willits Postmaster Scott Butler. "All the carriers really enjoy this event, and it's great to see all the community coming together to help others in need.'

"We received a good amount of food for this year's collection," noted city carrier and Union Steward Rebecca Laurent. "All of the donations made will stay at our local food bank. We look forward to more preparation and a great drive in 2023. We would like to thank the community for helping us achieve our common goal of helping those in need.

The food bank is always happy to receive donations of non-perishable food along with monetary donations, too. For more information, contact the food bank at 459-3333.

– Maureen Jennison

Above: Some of the almost 1,500 pounds of donated food awaits pickup at the Willits Post Office. Below: Donations of food included a variety of goodies, including ready-to-eat lentils, peaches and peppermint hot chocolate





SUPERVISORS TRYING TO SHUT IT DOWN

40th annual Willits Car Show on Memorial Day weekend

Come out and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Willits Car and Bike Show Memorial Day weekend, sponsored by the Willits Chamber of Commerce.

On Saturday, May 28, there's a "Pre Car Show" at Little Lake Auto Parts, 1571 South Main Street, from 11 am to 2 pm.

On Sunday, May 29, the show moves to the Recreation Grove on East Commercial Street. The Willits Lions Club starts off festivities with their Lions Club Breakfast, 7 to 10 am at the Scout Hut. Beautiful vintage cars and motorcycles will be displayed at the Rec Grove through 3 pm.

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At top: Herbalist Beth Reidel, left, and Melinda Clarke flank Sara Grusky of Green Uprising Farm, center, as she signs the Citizens Initiative for the Library petition. At top, right: Friends of the Willits Library President Melinda Clarke, Jane McCabe, and Willits City Council member Madge Strong collect signatures at the Willits Farmers Market. Above, left: A library supporter signs the petition. Above, right: Library supporter and author Jed Diamond signs a Citizens Initiative for the Library petition at Jane McCabe's table. Below: Librarian Will Minor, who set up the Seed Library at the Willits Library, shows his "Support Our Libraries" banner while petitioning at the Grateful Gleaners sale last weekend





'Support Our Libraries'

Willits area volunteers help collect signatures for November sales tax measure

Local volunteers with the Citizens Initiative for the Library are out collecting signatures for a ballot measure this fall, which would renew and extend Measure A, to provide stable and permanent funding for all Mendocino County Library branches and the Bookmobile.

"We have been in front of our local markets, at churches, schools, Iennifer Poole farmers market, and at public events," said Melinda Clarke, Editor & Reporter president of Friends of the Willits Library and local organizer for the willitsweekly@gmail.com library initiative

Organizers need to turn in at least 3,397 valid signatures of Mendocino County voters to make the November ballot, county Voter Registrar Katrina Bartolomie confirmed. The deadline is June 13.

"Our Willits goal is 1,000 signatures, and we are just over two-thirds now," Clarke said.

Volunteers in other towns countywide are also collecting signatures for the ballot measure, and the Citizens Initiative for the Library group is hoping to gather as many as 6,000 signatures, to ensure plenty of valid signatures to make the ballot

Measure A, which passed with 75.66% approval in 2011, added 1/8 of 1 cent to the local Mendocino County sales tax, sunsetting after 16 years. The new measure, if passed in the November 8 election, will renew that 1/8 cent tax and add another 1/8 cent, so the total local sales tax going to support the libraries would be 1/4 of 1 cent

Measure A currently provides for 60% of total library funding.

"This is funding earmarked for libraries' use ONLY," Clarke stressed. "Please look for petition gatherers where you shop or at events. We can ensure continued library functioning with your help."

Questions? Email friendsofthewillitslibrary@gmail.com



The rest of From page 1 Noyo

Adding the new seats did reduce the seating count to 32 in the small theater, but the leg room and spacing between seats feels first class indeed. There's even two handicapped-accessible seats in the newly redone theater. The armrests raise to allow patrons to transfer from a wheelchair into the new seats.

Noyo co-owner Jeff Hoover noted that he and janitor Russell Phillips, with a little help also from movie reviewer Dan Essman with the dismantling of the old seats, installed the seats row by row, only shutting down the theater day for one room only – floor painting day!

A swiveling table also provides a place to set your drink or snacks.

Doing the remodel and starting in on a new venture is a leap of faith for Jeff and his wife, Lois – that the community will continue to support the small locally owned theater.

"I have spoken to countless old-timers who have waxed poetic about the good times had at the Noyo Theatre either as a patron or even as an employee (first job out of high school)," said Hoover. "They talk about how they love the theater and how important it was to them then, and how important it still is to Willits now "

However, Hoover noted an odd trend he's noticed over the years:

"When I think I am talking to a regularly attending customer, they continue to tell me that they have not been inside the theater for years ... even decades. But why?" asked Hoover.

"It's the kids and it's the kids' movies,' they say. We hear that there are people looking for a kid-free movie experience, and this will provide a more comfortable environment," explained Hoover.

He noted that many of these same folks are the people who helped the Noyo out on the GoFundMe fundraiser o they held because of the pandemic, and the success of U which allowed the theater to continue on, "or we would not be here today!" he said.

"A number of them have told us that serving beer and wine would be attractive, and we wanted to sweeten the deal with luxury loungers," explained Hoover. "So here it is ... hoping that we can persuade them to come back to the movies! Our goal is to show the movies that you, our neighbors, want to see. Tell us what we can do to make our 21 and Over Club theater a success."

Movies will show in the special theater at regularly scheduled times and will feature some of the same movies as the regular theater. Some films will rotate to both types of the theater rooms to make sure everyone can see all the films - with or without beer.

The Hoovers are also interested in expanding the



lack Tharp Arena | 4 pm

LEGAL NOTICES

WW387	Willits Weekly								
Fictitious Business Name	-								
Statement	can run your legal								
The following person is doing	notices including								
business as Root Wisdom, 9021 Hearst Willits Road, Willits CA 95490.	fictitious business								
Registered owner: Kirra	name statements,								
Swenerton, 9021 Hearst Willits Road, Willits CA 954900.	foreclosure								
This business is conducted by an ndividual.	notices, storage								
The registrant commenced to	unit auctions, and								
ransact business under the ictitious business name listed	more. Contact								
above on March 1, 2022. FBN statement filed with the	us for more								
Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder	information at willitsweekly@								
on March 3, 2022.									
s/ Kirra Swenerton									
Publication dates: May 12, 19, 26, and June 2, 2022	gmail.com								
Marc Kome Legal Document Ass An Affordable									
Non-Attorney Serv	vice								
(707) 459-27	75								
245 South Humboldt St., Suite B, Willits BY APPOINTMENT ONLY									
I am not an attorney, and can only provide	self-help services at your specific direction.								
up themed movies.	Club to include more grown-								

"We've had various requests for other types of movies to be shown, including Bollywood, independents, classics and more," explained Lois Hoover. "We're looking to experiment and see what works and what will become a success for our patrons.

Suggestions and comments can be sent to: movies@ novotheatre.com



Registration Open Brookside TK / Kindergarten registration now open. To register go to www.willitsunified. com. Kindergarten: age 5 by Sept. 1, 2022; TK: age 5 between Sept. 2, 2022 and Feb. 2, 2023.	for Rent Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. See at http://www. oaknvine.net/tp
Computer Help Need help with your computer? PC, Macintosh, Android and IOS devices. Repairs, configuration and tutoring: \$50/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email uicearbhaill@gmail.com	John Ford Ranch Beef John Ford Ranch still has the 50 lb. Rancher's Choice Box for \$325.00 and the 25 lb. Hamburger Box for \$150.00. Please contact Debbie Arkelian @ 459- 5049.
For Rent Property for Rent: Shimmins Ridge, 30 acres, 24' x 30' outbuilding, Kitchen Area, Bathroom, Water, Septic, RV hookup. \$2,600 monthly, Credit Check required; best results. Text 707-841- 1670. Appointment only.	Indoor Yard Sale Giant Indoor Yard Sale – Deep Valley Christian School, 8555 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, (across from the Broiler). Saturday, June 4 – 8 am to 4 pm.
Help Wanted	Moving sale on Saturday, May 21, 10 to 4 pm. Furniture, tools,

CLASSIFIEDS

RV/Trailer Space

art supplies, and more

Willits

24891 Goose Place in

for Rent

Brookside

reports to our local weekly. Experience with news reporting is **RV/Trailer Space** ideal, but not required. Email willitsweekly@ Space for RV's and gmail.com with a brief Trailers \$425 per inquiry and your contact month, includes water information, or call 707-& garbage. Close to 459-2633. Safeway in Willits. Call Tony (707) 972-4696. \mathbf{W} See at http://www. oaknvine.net/tp

news

Interested in the news?

Willits Weekly would

like to talk to you about

contributing

PRIZE DRAWINGS SUNDAY JUNE 26 AFTER 10PM

1st Place - 2021 Honda Pioneer Deluxe 2nd Place - \$1,000 Free Play 3rd Place - \$750 Free Play 4th Place - \$500 Free Play

FRIDAY NIGHT FUN 7 – 10рм

Earn entries starting at 5pm

2 hourly winners choose **\$150 FREE PLAY OR \$100 CASH**

For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club. Gambling a problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.

3X ENTRIES **ON MONDAYS 10 BONUS ENTRIES** for Hot Seat winners on weekends For complete rules and details please visit the Players Club



		Confesta	nî
ð ð	2022 Sched	ule of Events	
FRIDAY. JUNE 17- HOMETOWN CELEBRATION Main Street	WFD JRS. BARRELS & POLES Kick off series event 1 pm Jack Tharp Arena	SATURDAY, JULY 2- JUNIOR RODEO Jack Tharp Arena 1 pm Adult \$10, Child	MONDAY, JULY 4- HORSESHOE CONTEST Rec Grove Park 10 am
Downtown Willits 5 to 9 pm	SUNDAY, JUNE 26- HORSESHOW	(2 and under): free	PARADE "Western Heritage"
FRIDAY JUNE 24- RUCK & TRACTOR PULLS Jack Tharp Arena 6 pm Adult: \$20, Child (3+): \$10 STREET DANCE saturing The Flat Busted Band Following rodeo Free	Jack Tharp Arena 8 am SWEETHEART JUDGING Horsemanship: During Horse Show Jack Tharp Arena NATIONAL ANTHEM Rodeo Grounds Noon	SUIIDAY, JULY 3- LIONS COWBOY BREAKFAST Rec Grove Park 7 am Adult \$12, Child: \$8 CCPRA PROFESSIONAL RODEO 7 pm Jack Tharp Arena	Main Street Downtown Willits 11 COUNTRY MUSIC ROD Rec Grove Park No BEEF BARBECUI Rec Grove Park No Adult: \$20 & Child/Senic
SATURDAY, JUNE 25- SWEETHEART JUDGING	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29 CARNIVAL OPENSI	Bax: \$25, Adult: \$20, Child (3+): \$10	CCPRA PROFESSIO RODEO

CARNIVAL OPENSI

Appearance & Poise



WESTERN DANCE



Friday, June 24:

SWEETHEART JUDGING

WFD JRS. BARRELS & POLES

Appearance & Poise

Kick off series event

1 pm | Jack Tharp Arena

Sunday, June 26:

Noon | Rodeo Grounds

TRUCK & TRACTOR PULLS Jack Tharp Arena | 6 pm Adult: \$20, Child (3+): \$10

STREET DANCE featuring The Flat Busted Band Following rodeo | Free

CCPRA PROFESSIONAL RODEO 7 pm | Jack Tharp Arena Saturday, June 25: Box: \$25, Adult: \$20, Child (3+): \$10

> WESTERN DANCE featuring Lance Michael Cornwell Band Following rodeo | Free

LIONS COWBOY BREAKFAST

Monday, July 4: HORSESHOE CONTEST

Main Street - Downtown Willits | 11 am

COUNTRY MUSIC RODEOLA

Sunday, July 3:

Rec Grove Park | 7 am

Adult: \$12, Child: \$8

Rec Grove Park | 10 am PARADE "Western Heritage"

HORSESHOW Jack Tharp Arena | 8 am

SWEETHEART JUDGING Horsemanship: 6/26/22 During Horse Show | Jack Tharp Arena

NATIONAL ANTHEM Rec Grove Park | Noon Adult: \$20 & Child/Senior: \$12 Rodeo Grounds | Noon

CCPRA PROFESSIONAL RODEO

Rec Grove Park | Noon

BEEF BARBECUE

Jack Tharp Arena | 4 pm Box: \$25, Adult: \$20, Child (3+): \$10 fore info: www.WillitsFrontierDays.com

Facebook Sweetheart will be crowned

Wenesday, June 29:

CARNIVAL OPENS

on Friday, July 1

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SHERWOOD

VALLEY 🔘 CASINO





The rest of Candidates

From page 1 have given out \$27,000 to students.

I have worked with Sheriff Kendall and Sheriff Allman to secure additional state funding to combat egregious cannabis grows and worked with firesafe councils our economy is based and communities in creating emergencyon a legal market for access routes (which proved critical for cannabis. safe evacuations during the Oak Fire). I worked with Debra Polack and

to provide economic Mendocino College to start up an EMT/ development for this paramedic program, worked on broadband fledgling industry in delivery to Mendocino County, and worked a new legal market to support the small cannabis cultivators by of our county, while standing up against sales, the corporate takeover of our lands and development, and lower communities. I have been effective in taxes at both the county advocating for the Third District and and state levels. I am Mendocino County. That is why I am proud to have received supported by over 150 leaders in our the endorsements of the district.

Mendocino Cannabis Clay Romero: I have been in the Third Alliance and the Covelo District for 48 years and know it well. I Cannabis Advocacy graduated from Laytonville High School in 1978 and have owned my own home since 1979. I'm a problem solver, not a bureaucrat. I am for helping the people and am not beholden to anyone. I care about the people and will not burden them by accepting a county pension upon my departure. My career requires excellence so I am used to demanding situations. I

believe in policies that have substance, rather than symbolic rhetoric. I know how things work, because I design and build them

What are the most important changes that you as a supervisor would push for related to Willits and the surrounding areas such as Little Lake Valley, Brooktrails and Pine Mountain? punitive.

Clay Romero: I want to revise county policy to make permits easier and cheaper to obtain. When a permit is requested, the parcel of land will be exempt from property tax until the permit's benefits are realized. If something prevents the permit's benefits from completion, the county should refund the money. This will incentivize the county to work promptly and result in greater economic activity and prosperity while providing more jobs.

I also will stop all COVID-19 related government vaccine and mask mandates. John Haschak: Fire safety and

drought resiliency are two critical issues. Working with the incredible volunteers of the Sherwood Firewise Community and generous landowners, we were working to establish able to get shaded fuel breaks and policy for its best and passable emergency-access routes for most efficient use. This the Brooktrails area. More work is needed is a very good base on to secure additional routes and working which to build. together with CalFire, Brooktrails Fire John

Department and the board, and the SFC, Former Sheriff Tom we will accomplish our goals. Allman did a great favor for Mendocino

people to get to licensure, not bureaucratic give a discount on their property taxes for nonsense and roadblocks. The county must a job well done. The county and the people hire more staff to administer the program, would benefit in the long term from houses provide education and assistance on how that were saved from a wildfire. I also know to successfully complete the Appendix G that with some updated building codes and CEQA document, use the state money to some local ingenuity, we can make houses support the cultivators, and realize that much more resistant to burning. This would a significant part of

CLAY ROMERO I have been in Mendocino County for 48 years and the county. Lastly, we need graduated from Laytonville

The latest budget High School in 1978. At assessments for the 18 years old, I began a county show that there manufacturing career in Willits, may be some serious where I started as a clean-up structural deficit man pushing a broom. Today, issues with declining am the proprietor of my revenues and own machine shop in Willits increasing expenses. called ROMAX. I have been What are some of the in business for 28 years in the ways the board of same location. Along the way I supervisors can help played piano, sang, and wrote to keep the county poetry.

budget balanced in the upcoming years, while Group. These groups are vital economic also taking into account understaffing development organizations and advocates *in many departments*?

for our small cultivators. Clay Romero: By privatizing the Clay Romero: Yes, I think major changes building department, money can be saved, are needed. Though 10A.17 is technically while transitioning employees into noncorrect, it is far too demanding of permittees governmental jobs doing the same job. We to be workable. I recommend rewriting it for can also minimize some of the 34 boards readability and simplification. This 42-page

supporting direct

Do you think the

differentlv?

cooperative

and commissions that have guestionable document could be summed up in one benefit or have inordinately high costs to sentence. "When growing cannabis, don't operate. We can increase county revenues bother your neighbors." in the long term by making permits easier to get and by encouraging more manufacturing The county should reduce or eliminate

to operate in Mendocino County. Working county fees associated with legal cannabis with those that make a physical product will cultivators. I know the value of cannabis generate more real wealth for driving other products are very low due to an oversupply service-related industries like tourism. condition. We need to be fair with those that sought to be legal rather than being We need to reduce our unfunded liability pensions by transitioning

JOHN HASCHAK county is doing a good I was raised in Willits, iob at dispersing the and my wife, Janice, and I Measure B Mental raised our daughter and son Health Treatment Act here. After graduating from money in Mendocino? UCLA's Graduate School of

If not, what do you feel Education, I was a Peace pension system is they should be doing Corps volunteer in Guatemala, responsible for our then taught Spanish at Willits county paying out \$3.2 Clay Romero: Yes. High School, teaching for 28 understand the Crisis years in the Willits schools. Residential Treatment As president of the Willits facility building was Teachers Association, recently completed and was an advocate for public opened on April 25, education and the children 2022. I look forward to and families of Willits. I was seeing the facility and elected to my first term on

the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors in 2018. I love running, hiking, and biking the trails and canoeing the rivers of Mendocino County. Haschak:

provide a competent and helpful process for helping property owners clear brush and Having an additional lake would insure that more water would be available for the Eel River to remain "Wild and Scenic" during times of drought

> What other issues would you invest your time and energy into as Third District supervisor?

Clay Romero: I will defend the 48,000 help people with the cost acre Jackson State Demonstration Forest of insuring their houses. It was deeded to California for this purpose. What is good for the and has worked very well for 73 years. people will be good for also want to develop policies for dealing with the homeless who are chronically into drugs, alcohol and crime.

> I expect to defend the people against state and federal laws that are oppressive to our people. It is the supervisors who are the last line of defense against bad laws. The COVID-19 government mandates and policies were destructive to our economy and health. I stand ready to defend our people, not meddlesome government agencies.

I want to make Mendocino County self-sufficient, to maintain safety, have abundant water, develop its own food supply, and be as energy-independent as possible. The Sheriff's Office can do a lot, but it is the people that can maintain the security in a broad sense. I support keeping Lake Pillsbury and pursuing other avenues of storing water. The hydroelectric plant at the Potter Valley Project is critical for meeting the energy needs of the people and must not be shut down. I will be looking to develop other energy sources as well. and to keep it local.

John Haschak: The vast majority of my time has been spent on making our communities safer, creating the conditions for a vibrant economy, and transparency in our government. I greatly appreciate the collaboration of many people in moving these key issues forward, yet there is still a lot of work to be done in each of these all new employees to areas. I look forward to working with the 401K pension plans. A people of the Third District, the county well-managed 401K plan and beyond to achieve these goals. Public would be superior by service is noble, and I am honored to serve giving county employees the Third District of Mendocino County. more choices. Our current public employee

> The rest of From page 1 Roundup

million per month the front of the adult female's vehicle. pension benefits, which During the incident the adult female heard reduces the money a single gunshot, and her vehicle's tire the county can use deflated to benefit our people. Hencz then left the area towards the This retirement system direction of Highway 162. Deputies checked is the primary reason the area but did not locate Hencz or her why the City of Vallejo, vehicle, and a BOLO ("be on the lookout") Stockton, and the City of was issued to local law enforcement San Bernardino all filed agencies. for bankruptcy. If this On May 7, a Mendocino County Sheriff's government-run system Office deputy noticed Hencz driving her continues, Mendocino County will suffer the vehicle in the Lavtonville area. The deputy conducted a traffic stop on

"Building Stronger Communities Together" means working for a diversified economy, with sustainable jobs by...

Promoting enhanced career and technical education ✓ Supporting small and local businesses that respect our communities and natural environment

Improving and increasing broadband access

✓ Creating more affordable housing opportunities

And working together toward these shared goals with the following elected community leaders who have endorsed John Haschak for Supervisor:

Congressman Jared Huffman

State Senator Mike McGuire

Assemblymember Jim Wood

Sheriff Matt Kendall

Willits Mayor Saprina Rodriguez, Willits City Council Madge Strong, and Gerry Gonzalez

Brooktrails President Rick Williams and Brooktrails Board Members Tina Tyler O'Shea, Ralph Santos, Ed Horrick, and Tony Orth

Cahto Tribal Chair Mary Norris

Laytonville Area Municipal Advisory Council Chair Jim Shields Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council Chair Charles Sargenti

Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Haschak for Supervisor 2022, FPPC# 1442639

Pine Mountain is another basically one County by getting Measure B passed. We way in, one way out community. CalFire has are the only county with such a measure worked with the firesafe council to create dedicated to mental health services. shaded fuel breaks and better alternative Though it has taken longer than the roads. The Pine Mountain Firesafe Council public wanted, we just opened a regional has also done a lot of work on home training facility in Redwood Valley and a hardening. I am proud that the board was able to fully fund the Mendocino County Firesafe Council for the next five years and that the board funded the pilot program of

creating a County Service Area Zone of Benefit in the Sherwood Corridor.

Drought resilience is critical for our county, especially in Little Lake Valley. We need to protect our water, and that is why I have worked with Supervisor McGourty and community groups to come up with a way of ensuring that we have enough water and that it isn't sucked out of the valley floor and hauled off to unpermitted cannabis grows in the hills.

Given all the recent challenges in the county transitioning to legal cannabis, do you think any major changes are needed to the current 10A17 cannabis ordinance, and what can the county do at this point to help those who want to be in the legal market be successful?

John Haschak: One of the major accomplishments of my first term was standing up against the proposed ordinance to expand cannabis grows in all zones, including environmentally sensitive resource lands. The people gathered signatures for a referendum, and the other supervisors finally joined me in rejecting those flawed ideas.

Going forward, I have worked with Mendocino Cannabis Alliance and Covelo Cannabis Advocacy Group as well as the Willits Environmental Center to get cultivators through the permitting process to their annual state licensure. I don't think that the ordinance needs major changes, but rather more efficient implementation.

The state has given Mendocino County \$18 million to help people get their annual licenses. If people are following the intent of the 10A17 ordinance, the county must

crisis residential treatment center in Ukiah. The board approved construction of a psychiatric hospital facility There are also programs being funded by Measure B such as aftercare, mobile outreach, education and awareness, and a crisis respite facility on the coast. I want to

thank former Sheriff Allman, Jed Diamond, and Sherrie Ebyam, who have provided stellar representation on the Measure B oversight committee.

> How can the county best be proactive in trying to protect against devastating fires in the area which destroy lives.

Given the ongoing drought concerns, property and the environment? what are the most important measures the county can take to ensure that John Haschak: Climate change is water is available to all areas in the having devastating consequences. We upcoming years? have droughts, increased aridity, and longer, hotter summers. The Climate John Haschak: I have been working

Action Advisory Committee provides with Supervisor McGourty on water issues recommendations to the board on ways for the past year. We have brought in that Mendocino County can be proactive in \$23.3 million in state grants for water-

licenses

doing our part to limit climate change. infrastructure programs. We applied for a grant to study how much water we have in Promoting healthy forests by using our aquifers and the quality of that water. prescribed burns and fuel-reduction The county is looking at setting up a water projects are needed. People are forming fire agency with input from throughout the safe communities which are instrumental in county. We need to look at where inter-ties educating and strengthening communities of water systems make sense, because by connecting neighbor to neighbor. I hauling water from Ukiah to the coast is have been persistent and collaborative in unsustainable. We also need to regulate

developing emergency-access routes. We the extraction of water from valleys and need to seek funding through the federal infrastructure act for a true second-access the hauling of that water to illegal cannabis route in and out of Brooktrails. grows.

Clay Romero: We need to prepare our The board has given additional funding lands to capture more water in lakes and to firewise councils and fire departments. reservoirs. The raising of Scott Dam at Lake Tree mortality is an increasing danger to our Pillsbury would be an easy solution and communities, and I will be proposing a Tree funded by the State Water Bond of 2014. Mortality Task Force to look at this critical The funds are still available via a grant. issue. Most importantly, we need to help There was also a study done in 1982 that each other in creating safer communities. looked at 13 areas in Northern California Clay Romero: It would be good to for building lakes that should be reviewed. incentivize brush clearing by the county by

John Haschak: The county needs to be Hencz, and she was subsequently more efficient in how it conducts business. for assault with a deadly weapon (245(A) With the pandemic and many people (2) PC), vandalism (594(A)(1)) PC), and an retiring throughout the country, we have active misdemeanor warrant found many departments short of staff. Deputies found a spent .22 caliber shell County employees are working hard. The

same fate.

inefficiencies and work smarter.

property and short-term rental taxes. A

vibrant economy will also generate more

revenue. This means getting business

casing inside the vehicle. Deputies further pandemic showed that some jobs can be noticed Hencz's vehicle had damage to done remotely. There are efficiencies to be the front of the vehicle consistent with the gained by technologies. We do need to cut reported incident.

Hencz was booked into the Mendocino The flip side is that the county can County Jail where she was to be held in lieu increase revenues by making sure that of \$32,500 bail. we are collecting taxes due, especially

2 arrested for transporting pot plants

By Sgt. J. Wells for MCSO permits issued quickly, securing water so On May 6, at about 11:30 pm, a that housing can be developed, and getting Mendocino County Sheriff's Office deputy the cannabis cultivators to their annual noticed a vehicle towing a trailer traveling

southbound on Highway 101 in Willits. The deputy conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle for numerous vehicle code violations. The deputy contacted two subjects in the vehicle, who identified as Jesus Alberto Paredes, 24, from Clearlake,

and Juan Carlos Marguez-Diego, 36, from Clearlake The subjects consented to a search of their vehicle and trailer. Inside the trailer, deputies found 128 approximately 2-foot-

tall growing marijuana plants.

The deputy learned the pair were traveling from Covelo to Clearlake with the plants. The subjects did not have any paperwork to show these plants were possessed legally.

Paredes and Marquez-Diego were arrested for transportation for sale of marijuana (11360 HS) and conspiracy to commit a crime (182 PC).

Paredes and Marguez-Diego were booked into the Mendocino County Jail to be held in lieu of \$20,000 bail each.



Willits Weekly | May 19, 2022 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Pg. 13 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490



Submitted by Ukiah Shamrock 4-H

Join Garrett Weaver, the junior rabbit leader for Ukiah



Garrett Weaver from Weaver Ranch Rabbitry will be

teaching you about showmanship, Kenzie Osburn from

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

Agape **Bible Church** 290 S. Lenore Ave. Willits,CA 95490 Where love is first and the Bible is central and teach you about rabbits. Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m. - Worship dult Sunday School 9:00 a.

Info? 707-459-1905 www.agapebiblechurch.cor

Amazing Grace Assembly of God Church 803 Coast Street

P.O. Box 489, Willits 707-303-5456 Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m Pastor Burton Jernigan EVERYBODY IS WELČOME

The Church of **Jesus Christ of** Latter-day Saints 265 Margie Drive Willits, ČA 95490 ALL ARE WELCOME Sacrament Meeting Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Eckankar: The Path of Spiritual Freedor

•Sound of Soul events Membership Discourses •Spiritual Discussions •ECK Light & Sound Service More information Call 530-224-8703

www.eckankar.org **Grace Community**

Church Celebrating Life In Christ

25 Hazel Street, Willits **Modified Worship Service** 10 a.m. Other ministries suspended

Osburn Farm will be teaching you about breeding rabbits, Shamrock 4-H Club, on Saturday, May 21 from 10 am to 12 and Lauren Dill from Little Dill's Rabbitry will be teaching noon at Rainbow Ag in Ukiah to learn more about rabbits, you about rabbit breeds. see a variety of rabbits, and win prizes! There will also be a silent auction and a chance to win a There will be four stations at this spring event: Breeding live New Zealand rabbit, a cage, a grooming table, home Showmanship, Judging and over 15 breeds on display! décor, rabbit care materials and much more! We will have Stephanie Brundage, an American Rabbit

Rabbit Days at Rainbow Ag, May 21

Breeders Association registrar, there to answer questions Go through each station and earn a prize! We hope to see you there!

Above: Ukiah 4-H's Garrett Weaver, from Weaver Ranch Rabbitry, with his 2021 meat pen. Below: Ukiah 4-H's junior rabbit leader Garrett Weaver, left, and Kenzie Osburn of Potter Valley 4-H show off rabbits, while American Rabbit Breeders Association judge Allan Hafferty looks on.





Redwood Empire **Spring** Fair

June 3 - 5

Empire Fair

Fairgrounds June 3 through 5.

"We can't wait to welcome guests back for the Spring Fair." said Jennifer Seward. fair CEO. "Families can expect to enjoy classic fair food, carnival rides, and entertainment. includina live music and the popular Monster Trucks and Mudd Boggs. It will be a great event for the community and we hope to see many past and new visitors."

Guests are encouraged to indulge in their favorite The rest of From page 6 Sales Tax

right now with inflation and everything," he added. "I don't know if we went for a tax at the November ballot if we would be successful.... So I'm very hesitant to go ahead with any kind of proposal for a sales tax at this point."

Williams responded that he believed county residents would support sending money to local fire districts.

"I think the public trusts their volunteer fire departments and the paid departments of which there's very few," he said. "So the idea of raising funds to funnel revenue to existing public institutions that are highly functional that know how to stretch every dollar, I think the public would support that."

"Personally I would support the tax for water as well," he added. "I think that we're behind the game already. It's going to become more of a crisis."

Some of the possible water projects mentioned by the supervisors which could use the tax funds were groundwater studies in the Third District, desalination of sea water on the coast, increased storage capacities, and "planning and litigation" related to the Potter Valley Water Project.

"As it goes to water, we're really at a crossroads," said Supervisor McGourty. "What I'm hoping that we do is that we chart a path forward for the next 100 years, because we've been living on about 100 years of legacy decisionmaking in Mendocino County on water, and our time has literally run out."

As the county explores moving forward on their sales tax measure, "The Citizens Initiative for the Library" supporters are also currently in the midst of their own campaign to get said. a sales tax ballot initiative approved.

The group is currently gathering signatures in an effort to have voters approve an increase of 1/8 cent per dollar sales tax for library funding – bringing it up to 1/4 cent overall – and have that rate remain in effect permanently.

Like the county, they are also emphasizing to the public that overall taxes would not be raised since the Measure B tax is decreasing.

Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde spoke in support of the efforts of the Citizens Initiative for the Library, and had serious misgivings as to whether a sales tax measure put on the ballot by the supervisors was the right way to go.

He talked of the failed efforts by the board to put in place a new cannabis ordinance last year due to a citizen-led referendum against it, and didn't think the supervisors had the "credibility" to lead the way on a tax ordinance.

"The voters are not going to rubber stamp a tax that this board of supervisors puts on the ballot," he said. "And I think we should approach this with some humility.... I think the suggestion to raise the tax dollars needs to come from the voters themselves."

"I think there are legitimate arguments to be made for a tax for better water delivery in Mendocino County," he continued. "I definitely think there's a strong argument to be made for the fire departments and fire resiliency in Mendocino County. And I think library supporters – I think they're the ones that are showing the way to do it. It's not by rounding up three or five votes on the board of supervisors, because that's a path to nowhere."

Second District Supervisor Maureen Mulheren said that in her view the different sales tax measures from the county and the library supporters did not have to be in conflict, and could be supported and passed simultaneously by the community – though that could mean that overall sales taxes in the county would increase slightly by something like 1/8 cent per dollar.

"I want for the Friends of the Library and the community to really understand we have not met our sales tax limit in Mendocino County," she said. "We don't have to associate

we do about the Potter Valley Project and what happens with the potential raising of the Coyote Dam and adding more storage capacity in Lake Mendocino - if I didn't try to do something, then I would've failed my community," she said. "I feel ... that this is our opportunity to put something to the voters that they can help and support us financially, so that we can have these historical changes that we need. So that decades from now my grandkids will be able to say, 'I'm glad we kept that water local.' That's what the water means to me.'

During public comments, no one spoke out against the idea of the sales tax measure, and some of those who spoke in support included John Reardon, board member of the Russian River Flood Control and the Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission; Emily Techhio, Mendocino County Fire Safe Council coordinator; Dave Latoof, chief of the Mendocino Volunteer Fire Department and president of the Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association; and Ben MacMillan, steering committee member of the Mendocino County Association of Fire Districts.

"A shift to a consistent long-term focus is needed," MacMillan said of fire funding. "County residents rely on public EMS and fire services. Equipment and emergency vehicles are extremely expensive and staffing is 90% volunteer in the county. This model can't successfully continue to provide high levels of service without increased financial support."

Latoof said that of the 21 fire districts in the county, only two "might have full staff. It's a subject of department reports every meeting that they're having problems keeping volunteers coming and retention to their department," he

Devon Boer of the Mendocino County Farm Bureau said that she would like to see more specifics on how the tax money would be spent, but generally supported investing it in water projects.

"Going into a third year of drought, I think there are opportunities within the public to understand the critical juncture that we are at in Mendocino County, looking at aging water infrastructure, threatened water supplies, unknowns with the future of groundwater resources in this county," she said. "I think this could be an opportunity to continue to have a bigger awareness of the need of funding for water."

County Assessor/ Clerk-Recorder Katrina Bartolomie told board members the deadline to submit a ballot measure for the November election is August 12.

BOS asks state to pause PG&E tree removal

In other actions taken, the board approved sending letters to Governor Gavin Newsom and the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety asking that they temporarily halt PG&E's "Enhanced Vegetation Management Program" until some changes could be implemented and more clarity given about their criteria for tree removal.

The board also approved an introduction of a "fallowing" program ordinance for cannabis cultivators, where they can declare that they are not operating for the year and avoid the county's minimum cannabis tax, but still retain their permit for future years.

The rest of From page 3 Growing

tradition of people who pick fruit and vegetables that are not being utilized by farmers or orchard owners. According to Ronnefeldt, the group was started by Karen Gridley about 18 years ago. The produce that is brought in is distributed to the Willits Food Bank, Willits Harrah Senior Center, the Boys and Girls Club, in addition to a handful of other organizations

"I once picked trees with Prana," said Ronnefeldt, "and

From page 5 Tournament

The rest of

the biggest incentive, as well as helping raise money for this excellent cause. The price of entry was \$150 per team, which netted \$900 for Sober Grad

"We're doing all kinds of different stuff this year [to raise money], including this tournament, just for a little change of scenery, to get outside and get a little vitamin D," said Lambert. "This is the second to the last fundraiser of the

season. Flying Dog Pizza is donating one pizza per team. Sparetime let us borrow all their boards. 101 Trailer gave us some great discounts on some prizes for today. All proceeds go to Sober Grad.

"We raffled two gift baskets and we did a candy sale," she continued. "We did a pulled-pork sandwich lunch for Super Bowl. Our tri-tip dinner is always our biggest fundraiser of the year. We have the Cornhole Tournament today. The last thing we're doing is a lumpia sale, which is a Philippine variation on an eggroll. We have a senior parent who is going to prepare those. We're going to sell those at Roots of Motive Power in May at the Memorial Day Weekend Car Show on the 29th."

For those unfamiliar with the simple and competitive world of cornhole games, Lambert explained, "On the board is one point. In the hole is three points. You can cancel points of your opponents by matching their throws, i.e., if your opponent gets a bag in the hole and you do the same, the points cancel each other out. You can accidently knock someone in the hole or off the board.

"If it gets to 12-0, it's considered a 'skunk' and the game is over," she said. "You play to 21 points. These are tournament rules. Normally, if you play to 21 and you go over, you would start over from zero and work your way back up. That scoring takes too long. They are going to play to 21 three times each round, so it's best two of three games. Because it's double-elimination, you can lose twice before you're out."

There was an additional chance to win prizes: a supplemental practice game where the contestants could purchase eight chances (eight bags) for \$20 and whoever got the most bags in the hole could win a Yeti cooler.

The six intrepid teams consisted of Kevin and Dominic Kvasnicka, Andrew Hosford and Heather Walker (Sparetime team), Jevin Wolfe and Nicholas Harrington (MetalFX), Bo Dale and Gabe Campbell (from Laytonville), Willits Mayor Saprina Rodriguez and Martin Rodriguez, and Stephen Summers and Mickey Coughlin (winners). Of course, the purpose of all this competition was to raise funds and awareness of the upcoming Sober Grad event. "Any student in the Willits Unified School District: Willits High School, Sanhedrin, Charter, La Vida are eligible to attend," said Lambert. "Even if they did nothing to help Sober Grad all year, they are still eligible to attend the party. They can come and stay the night, receive the \$50 gift, win carnival games, eat food all night long. Scoops is going to do a coffee bar with Red Bulls and coffees. There's cool stuff going on all night long."



returns

Submitted by Redwood

The Redwood Empire Spring Fair will return to the Redwood Empire

For appointments call: (707) 459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

61 W. San Francisco Ave. Willits, CA 95490 Father Aaron Bandanadam Mass times Confessions by appointment: 459-2252 Sunday Mass inside: 9:00 a.m. English 10:30 a.m. Spanish Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m. Covid guidelines apply. We welcome All Walks of Faith

St. Francis Episcopal Church North Main Street, Willit 707-272-0177 Sunday Service - 10 a.m. In-person and on Zoom

Call for information. ALL ARE WELCOME The Rev. Betsy Bruneau St. John Lutheran Church

Church Service: Sunday 10:00 to 11:00 (707) 459-2988 24 Mill Creek Drive ALL ARE WELCOME

Willits Seventh-Day Adventist Church 707-459-5714 Friendly, open worship Saturdays Bible Study - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - 10:45 a.m. Zoom Transmission Available Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 6:00 p.m. 399 W. Mendocino Ave

All are welcome! Willits United Methodist

Christ centered, progressive church ALL ARE WELCOME 286 School St. (at Pine) Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor Worship Celebration Sundays - 10:30 a.m. hildren's Sunday School - 10:45 a.m 459-2855 Facebook: www.facebook.com

f you want <u>to be included in</u> this column please call: **April Tweddell** (707) 972-2475 april@willitsweekly.com

SATURDAY COVID VACCINE CLINIC

Clinics will be for ages 5 and older. Children and Adults. For entire community. Do not need to be Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic patients.

MAY 28 \bullet JUNE 11 \bullet JUNE 25

Appointments are preferred, but drop-ins will be accepted, too.

CALL 707-459-6861 **TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT FOR** 9 AM - 12:30 PM & 1 PM - 2:30 PM

AT BAECHTEL CREEK CLINIC: 1245 S. MAIN STREET, WILLITS

Pfizer vaccines will be administered at Saturday clinics Although we will do Moderna by special advanced request for those 18 years and older.

Patients have to wait onsite for at least 15 minutes after vaccination

fair foods, including classics like kettle corn, caramel apples, and corn dogs. The Spring Fair will also feature live music nightly from 6 to 10 pm. Featured musicians include Fake News, Scott Forbes, and Banda Pacifica.

> While admission to the fair is free, the grandstands will require a ticket. Presale Monster Truck tickets are available at all Mendo Mill stores in Lake and Mendocino counties and Ukiah Grocery Outlet. Presale Monster Truck tickets are \$22 for adults (12 and up) and \$15 for children (3 to 11 years of age). Prices at the gate are \$25 per adult and \$18 per child.

> Pre-sale carnival wristband tickets are available at all Mendo Mill stores in Lake and Mendocino counties, Ukiah Grocery Outlet, Ukiah Taco Bell, Raley's, Chavez Market, and the Creative Pre-sale Workshop. wristbands are \$30 each (price at the carnival is \$35) and are good for any one day. Parking is \$10.

Gates will open for the Spring Fair at 3 pm on Friday, June 3 and at noon on Saturday and Sunday.



the board moving forward with this item against the libraries. We're not competing. There are many needs in our county and we have the ability as voters to support both."

Gierde disagreed with Mulheren, saying: "I think what you said is theoretically true, but if there is two or three taxes on the ballot, they're each more likely to lose votes.... It also diverts the attention of the voters. If they're voting on one measure, they can focus on it and make an informed decision. You put two or three taxes on the ballot, out of frustration, confusion, lack of information, people are generally going to vote no."

Mulheren said she was strongly in support of putting the sales tax measure to voters given what's at stake.

"As an elected person sitting here today, considering what minded locals.



next door was an apple tree, full of apples and dropping. There were people walking by. I picked up an apple and a man came and I asked him if he would like to have an apple. He was delighted but he couldn't bring himself to pick one up himself. I wonder what is the inhibition when there is a tree that is not being harvested. People are concerned about liability or being accused of theft or asking the owner. It is just going to waste. It does not hurt to ask or to arrange something.

The Grateful Gleaners are looking for the next generation of energetic young gleaners to take over. Contact Ronnefeldt at wolfgang@pacific.net for more information on how to become a member of this organization of civic and practical-

Roland's Bistro will be offering 3 specials for take-out: Just heat and eat! All specials will be under \$20 and will be posted on our Facebook page on Tuesday! Hours: 4 to 7pm on Wednesdays Let us do the cooking for you!

707-841-3058 1726 S. Main St. • Suite H Willits





100+ Women Strong volunteers smile for a photo at the Willits Center for the Arts.

Help 100+ Women Strong choose which local nonprofit will receive funding on June 2

Submitted by 100+ Women Strong of Inland Mendocino County

100+ Women Strong of Inland Mendocino County is set to continue their mission to give a financial boost to an inland Mendocino County nonprofit this year. Rivino Vineyards and Winery is hosting the live event from 5:30 to 7 pm on Thursday, June 2.

Three nonprofits will present at the event. These include the Ukiah-based United Disaster Relief of Northern California (formerly MendoLake Complex Fire Relief); Building Bridges, which provides services for the homeless; and the Shanél Valley Academy in Hopland.

100+ Women Strong is an inclusive all-volunteer group. Anyone interested in attending a gathering and hearing from three nonprofits doing indispensable work in our community is welcome to attend. Each attendee pledges \$100 on the Grapevine website via https://100StrongMendo. com. Already more than \$3,000 has been pledged.

At the gathering, after the nonprofits' presentations, everyone votes on the nonprofit they want to win. The votes are counted, and then one winner which will receive the pledged money is announced. It is common for many attendees to write another check to the other nonprofits, making the gathering a win for everyone.

100+ Women Strong for Inland Mendocino County was spearheaded by Katie Fairbairn and 20 volunteers. Previous winners include National Alliance for Mental Illness, Cancer Resources of Mendocino County, Ukiah Valley Trails Group, NCO Gardens Project, Caring Kitchen, Project Sanctuary, and the Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County. More than \$100,000 was raised in 2019 and 2020 to support these worthy nonprofits. WOMEN STRONG

In addition to the Rivino Vineyards event on Thursday, June 2, another presentation of nonprofits will take place on Thursday, October 6 at Nelson Family Vineyards.

For more information and to become a member of 100+Women Strong for Inland Mendocino County, visit: https://100StrongMendo.com. Or call Karen Christopherson, 707-272-5560.

Lively Lexii

Lexii is an awesome dog! She is super friendly and loyal, bonding quickly to her people. This 3-year-old loves to play a game of fetch, and looks to her people to learn, play, engage, and have FUN! Lexii does well with her commands such as "sit," "lie down," "take it," and "drop it."

Because she is a high-energy dog, she would do best in an active household that has experience with large dogs (she weighs 55 pounds). She is foodmotivated and she also loves to learn. Lexii is a playgirl and a tomboy; she loves affection, playing with people and dogs, loves toys, and being an important part of her people's lives!



To learn more about Lexii or view other adoptable animals, visit www.milofoundation.org or the Milo Foundation Sanctuary Facebook page. The sanctuary is currently doing pet adoptions by appointment only due to COVID-19. Please complete a pet-adoption application before requesting an appointment. You can reach the Milo Foundation at 510-900-2275.

Outgoing Storm

Meet our beautiful girl, Storm! This little lady loves other dogs of any shape or size, nothing is better than playing with a furry friend. Storm would do best in a home with another friendly pup as she is still learning how to navigate the human

world. Once Storm is comfortable with you, her cuddles are the sweetest ever! Storm is 8 months old, so still just a puppy! This sweet girl is crate-trained, potty-trained, knows some commands, and is food-motivated. Apply today to schedule a time to meet Storm at www.mendohumanesociety.com.

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino is located at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Great news! We are open back up - no appointments needed! We are open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday

from 11 am to 3 pm. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. You may also look at our available dogs and cats on our website: www. mendohumanesociety.com. our Facebook page, and on www.petfinder.com.

Snuggly Glenn Coco

Glenn Coco is a very friendly 3-year-old cat who likes to explore and snuggle up against you. He is very sweet, but would most likely do best in a home with no

other cats. Glenn Coco is available for adoption at Rainbow Ag in Ukiah

The Mendocino County Animal Shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, requires a reservation to view adoptable animals. Call 707-467-6453 to make an appointment to meet Glenn Coco or our other canine and feline guests. Make sure to pre-fill out the adoption application available at www.mendoanimalshelter. com.

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